

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.     A method of identifying entities having expertise in one or more  
2 subjects, the method comprising:  
3                   querying a database for documents relevant to a subject;  
4                   calculating a first score for each relevant document;  
5                   determining entities affiliated with one or more relevant documents;  
6                   calculating a second score for each entity based on the one or more first scores  
7 of the one or more relevant documents affiliated with the entity; and  
8                   ranking expertise of the entities based on the respective second scores of the  
9 entities.

1                   2.     The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying a ranking of  
2 expertise of the entities to a user.

1                   3.     The method of claim 2, wherein displaying a ranking of expertise of  
2 the entities includes graphically depicting levels of expertise.

1                   4.     The method of claim 2, wherein displaying a ranking of expertise of  
2 the entities includes numerically depicting levels of expertise.

1                   5.     The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2                   calculating a third score for each of a plurality of geographic areas based on  
3 the respective second scores of entities located within the each of the plurality of geographic  
4 areas; and  
5                   ranking expertise of the plurality of geographic areas based on the respective  
6 third scores of the plurality of geographic areas.

1                   6.     The method of claim 1, wherein determining entities includes:  
2                   determining an author of the document; and  
3                   determining from what one or more institutions the document emanated.

1                   7.     The method of claim 6, wherein determining from what one or more  
2 institutions the document emanated includes:  
3                   examining an address of the determined author.

1                   8.     The method of claim 7, wherein the address is a mailing address.



- 1                    22.    The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the  
2    Westlaw database.
- 1                    23.    The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the Lexis  
2    database.
- 1                    24.    The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the  
2    Dialog database.
- 1                    25.    The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the  
2    Medlex database.
- 1                    26.    The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the  
2    Science Citation Index.
- 1                    27.    The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the  
2    Genbank database.
- 1                    28.    The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the  
2    Internet.
- 1                    29.    The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is a subset  
2    of the Internet.
- 1                    30.    A system for identifying expertise in a subject, the system comprising  
2    a server system coupled with a database of documents, the server system having a memory  
3    including:  
4                    a first code configured to receive a subject from a user;  
5                    a second code configured to query the database for documents relevant to the  
6    subject;  
7                    a third code configured to calculate a first score for each relevant document;  
8                    a fourth code configured to identify entities affiliated with one or more of the  
9    relevant documents;  
10                  a fifth code configured to calculate a second score for each entity based on the  
11    one or more scores of the one or more relevant documents affiliated with the entity; and

12 a sixth code configured to provide to the user a ranking of the expertise of the  
13 entities based on the respective scores of the entities.

1 31. The system of claim 30, wherein the server system is coupled to the  
2 database via a world wide network of computers.

1 32. The system of claim 30 wherein the server system is coupled to a  
2 world wide network of computers, and further comprising a user computer coupled with the  
3 server system via the worldwide network of computers.

1 33. The system of claim 32 wherein the first code is configured to receive  
2 the subject from the user via the world wide network of computers, and wherein the sixth  
3 code is configured to provide to the user the ranking of the expertise of the entities via the  
4 world wide network of computers.